

FILLING OUT THE FORM

All of the personal data on the form must be completed by hospital personnel, midwives and birth attendants. It is important to fill in all the information and verify its correctness. Misspellings of names can cause mismatching of infants to results or hamper lab staff in searching for a screening report on an infant.

- The form should be filled out **before** the specimen is collected.
- The date of birth, time of birth, date of collection and time of collection together allow determination of whether or not the specimen was received within the time frame for testing. With exceptions for transfusion or transferring to another facility, a specimen should be collected after 24 hours from time of birth. Also, enzymes and metabolites start to break down after collection therefore it is necessary to mail the specimen in promptly. Any specimen received after 10 days from time of collection will be deemed unsatisfactory. If any of the above date and time information is missing or incorrect we will be unable to determine if the specimen falls within this time frame of collection. Results on a specimen received outside of the acceptable time frame for testing cannot be guaranteed.
- If less than 24 hours have elapsed between time of birth and time of specimen collection, there is a risk (approximately 16% in the first 24 hours and 2.2 % in the second 24 hours of life) that PKU test results are not valid due to an inadequate phenylalanine intake (Committee on Genetics, American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatrics, January 1982, p. 104). The PKU test is performed on these specimens, but the laboratory report will bear an advisory note. Early collection therefore, can introduce the possibility of a false-negative test result. It is recommended that the physician send a repeat specimen during the first two weeks of life.
- Please put your facility name or initials in the appropriate place. Although barcodes are logged in before sending the forms to a facility, occasionally they do not scan in or may have been inadvertently sent to another facility.
- Mail specimens to: **NEONATAL CHEMISTRY
KDHE / DHEL
FORBES FIELD, BLDG. 740
TOPEKA, KS 66620 - 0001**